

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT
- SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET

International file reference PCT/DE 03/03029

Cited documents:

This international preliminary examination report makes reference to the following documents D1 and D2:

- D1: WO 01/71977 A (BOSCO ERIC; AMERICA ONLINE INC (US); CHILES DAVID CLYDE (US)) 27 September 2001
D2: HAMZEH K ET AL: "Point-to-Point Tunneling Protocol--PPTP" IETF DRAFT, June 1996 (1996-06), XP002148266

Observations relating to item V:

Reasoned statement according to Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability; documents and explanations supporting such statement

1. The present application does not meet the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject matter of Claims 1 and 6 is not novel within the meaning of Article 33(2) PCT.

1.1 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

Document D1 discloses (the references in brackets relate to this document):

A method for interchanging data between an external device and applications installed on network elements of a packet-switching network using at least one tunnel connection (page 13, lines 15 to 23 and page 13, lines 1 to 5),

- in which each network element is connected to a network node device (Figure 5, 505, 510, 515),

- in which the network node device is involved in the tunnel connection (page 13, line 24 to page 14, line 2), and

- in which the network-end terminal point of the tunneled connection is allocated a global address uniquely (page 23, lines 5 to 7 and lines 13 to 18 or page 15, lines 12 to 17),

with the network node device forming the network-end terminal point of the tunnel connection when there are a plurality of network elements with joint use of the tunnel connection, where if one of the network elements requires a global address for executing an application it sets up a tunnel connection and forms the latter's

network-end terminal point, this tunnel connection being used only by this network element, and all tunneled data being routed through the network node device (page 13, line 24 to page 14, line 2 and page 15, lines 12 to 17), and where the network node device may alternately or simultaneously be a terminal point or a data-routing instance of a tunnel connection and/or of a plurality of tunnel connections (page 14, lines 27 to 32).

The subject matter of Claim 1 is therefore not novel (Article 33 (2) PCT).

1.2 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 6

Document D1 discloses (the references in brackets relates to this document):

A network node device which is involved in the interchange of data using at least one tunnel connection between an external device and applications installed on network elements of a packet-switching network (page 13, lines 15 to 23 and page 13, lines 1 to 5),

- in which each network element is connected to a network node device (Figure 5, 505, 510, 515) and
- in which the network-end terminal point of the tunneled connection has a uniquely allocated global address (page 23, lines 5 to 7 and lines 13 to 18 or page 15, lines 12 to 17),

with the network node device forming the network-end terminal point of the tunnel connection when there are a plurality of network elements with joint use of the tunnel connection, where if one of the network elements requires a global address for executing an application it can set up a tunnel connection and then forms the latter's network-end terminal point, this tunnel connection being able to be used only by this network element, and all data being routed through the network node device (page 13, line 24 to page 14, line 2 and page 15, lines 12 to 17).

The subject matter of Claim 6 is therefore not novel (Article 33 (2) (PCT)).

2. DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-5

Dependent Claims 2-5 contain no features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT with regard to novelty (Claims 3 and 4) or inventive step (Claims 2 and 5), see documents D1 and D2 and the corresponding points in the text which are indicated in the search report.